

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Response, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-14 and 22, with traverse. Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

In the Restriction Requirement, the Office asserts that Group II, claims 15-21 is drawn to a method of utilizing a tool, distinct from that of Group I, claims 1-14 and 22 to a tool for use with an asset.

Applicants submit that the alleged groupings do not justify searching the two Groups separately. Specifically, Applicants submit that the subject matter of Group II is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of Group II invention would encompass a search for the subject matter of the Group I invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of Group II will encompass all of the subject matter of Group I, and thus a search for all Groups could be made without serious burden. See MPEP § 803 in which it is stated: "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examining by the Office. Reconsideration of the election/restriction requirement and rejoinder of claims 15-21 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement between Groups I and II. Should the Examiner require anything further from Applicants, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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